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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

A REPLACEMENT SHEET for Figure 11 is attached, with right angle 82 added, as required by the Drawing Objection in the Office Action.

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above listed claim amendments along with the following remarks are fully responsive to the Office Action set forth above. Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 13-20 have been withdrawn. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended and claim 7 has been cancelled. New claim 21 has been added.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-7 were rejected as anticipated by Knoester, USP 2,824,583.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claim 8 was rejected as obvious over Knoester in view of Ronk, USP 649,955.

Claim 9 was rejected as obvious over Knoester in view of Broberg, Jr., USP 4,423,757.

Claims 10-12 were rejected as obvious over Knoester in view of Wood, USP 2,824,583.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to now recite that the link is attached solely to the mediate regions of the first and second members, and the post is free to move both radially towards and away from the connecting means to permit formation of generally circular loops with various gauges of wire.

As such, independent claim 1 and all the claims depending therefrom now clearly define over Knoester in that the core pin 13 of Knoester is constrained by links 15 and 16 and common pivot pin 3 to move only in one direction. At column 2, lines 38-41, Knoester says:

The plate 10 is guided not only by pin 3 but also by two links 15 and 16 each rotatably secured to a handle and to the plate 10, so that the latter can perform **a rectilinear movement only.** [emphasis added]

Applicant's invention, as presently claimed, has the advantage over Knoester that applicant's wire forming tool can accept a range of wire gauges and is automatically self-adjusting to wire diameter. In contrast, if over sized wire is attempted to be formed with Knoester, the jaws of Knoester will not close fully (see figure 6 of Knoester) and the loop

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will not be fully formed. Groove 8 is shown to have a particular diameter (see figure 8 of Knoester) and guide groove 9 is described (at column 2, line 28) as "similar in shape to the groove 8." These features also will not readily accept wire having a larger diameter than that of the grooves 8 and 9.

For these reasons, applicant's claims 1- 12 and 21 are patentable over Knoester and the combinations of Knoester with Ronk, Broberg, Jr., or Wood, because none of the secondary references teach or suggest applicant's invention as presently claimed in claim 1.

Dependent claim 6 has been amended to delete "movement generally perpendicular to the closing arc of the jaws" (for the post) and has been further amended to now recite that the limited movement of the post includes movement in other directions in addition to movement towards and away from the connecting means.

Neither Knoester alone nor any of the hypothetical combinations of Knoester with the secondary references teach or suggest this aspect of applicant's invention. For this reason, in addition to the reasons stated with respect to claim 1, claim 6 is also patentable.

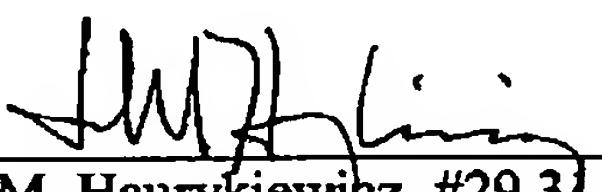
Conclusion

All pending claims are now in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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